Agreement with Federal Republic of Germany for special loan for Rourkela Steel Plant

2970. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased'to state:

(a) whether it is u fact that during the Prime Minister's recent visit to FRG an agreement was sig[ne]d for a special loan for the Rourkela Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the amount of the loan, it$_s$ terms and the specific purpose for which it will be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) No agreement was signed with the Federal Republic of Germany for a special loan for Rourkela Steel Plant during Prime Minister's recent visit to that country. The West German Government, however, announced a credit of DM 660 million for the modernisation of the said Plant. The modalities and terms of utilisation of the announced loan have not yet been decided.

Encouragement to Organisations to look after mentally retarded persons

@2971. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether needs of mentall v retarded persons $_0$f various age groups are being fully catered to by Voluntary and Government Institutions^ if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether a joint home interven tion programme which looks after the mentally retarded at home and also th$_e$ handicapped who are not mental ly retarted is being done in the Special School in Standthagen in West Germany; and

(c) whether organisations such as 'Samadhan are proposed to be encou raged to take up such combined pro grammes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI VSUMATI ORAON)|: (a): The primary responsibility for j the welfare and upliftment of the handicapped rests with the ' State Governments. However, in its coordinating and pace-setting role, the Centre has been assisting the State Governments as well as the voluntary organisations in programmes designed for rehabilitation of the handicapped. In this regard following programmes to cater to the needs of vrious age-groups of mentally retarded persons are being implemented.

(i) Grant in-aid is provided to voluntary organisations for implementing projects for education, training and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded persons,

(ii) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped has been set up at Secunderabad as apex level organisation for training, research and manpower development in the field of welfare of Mentally Retarded.

(iiil For Children with mild mental retardation, integrated education is provided.

I (iv) About 300 special schools in Go-i vernmerrt and voluntary sector provide education, skill training, vocational training to the mentally retarded persons.

(b) We are not aware of the programmes being implemented by STANDTHAGEN in West Germany.

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